THE TACOMA NORTH WEST FACTS

FROM THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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VOL. 3 NO. 120 | 44 YEARS OF SERVICE | MAY 16, 2007

MAY 22 2007

University Appoints Chief Diversity Officer

Kim Bobby Accepts New Role to Lead Strategic Diversity Initiatives

Kim Bobby as Chief Diversity Officer

The University of Puget Sound is pleased to announce the appointment of Kim Bobby as Chief Diversity Officer and associate professor of Education. In this new and strategically significant role, Bobby will provide leadership for diversity initiatives of the campus and serve the educational mission of the university by helping to plan, coordinate, implement, and assess operational and strategic goals related to diversity. In addition, Bobby will teach two courses each year in the School of Education, serve as Affirmative Action and Title IX Officer, and oversee resources related to the university's Race and Pedagogy Initiative.

"Achieving our goals in creating a genuinely diverse community is of utmost importance, and Kim will provide a vital leadership role as we continue our efforts in this area," says President Ronald R. Thomas. "Her powerful combination of education, experience, and community involvement, coupled with her strong commitment to the university, position her well to coordinate and lead our collective efforts in an effective way."

Bobby has served as director of Access Programs for the university since1999, working with the Office of Admission to attract and retain an increasingly diverse student body, in addition to serving on the Diversity Planning Task Force, Staff Senate, and President's Administrative Group. An active member of the broader community, Bobby has been involved with many important local initiatives and organizations, including the Tacoma Urban League, Washington Education Foundation, GEAR UP, Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Program, and the South Puget Sound Diversity Consortium.

"I believe diversity enhances the learning of all members of our community," Bobby says. "By serving as the chief diversity officer, I will work with students, faculty and staff to align our collective efforts to achieve and maintain greater diversity at Puget Sound. I feel very fortunate to serve in this important role and to be a member of the Puget Sound community at this important moment."

Bobby completed the Doctor of Education degree in Education Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Washington in 2007, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration and Policy Studies at California State University – Sacramento in 1994, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at CSU – Fresno in 1990. She was awarded a Women in Educational Leadership Scholarship in 2004 and is a member of Class X of the American Leadership Forum. She previously served as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Golden Gate University, as Educational Consultant to the Sacramento City University School District and to Imperial Software Systems, and as Director of the Office of Business and Community Relations and as Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for the Board of Education of the City of New York. A high resolution photo of Kim Bobby is available at **www.ups.edu/pressphotos.xml**.

Additional information about diversity and multicultural programs at the University of Puget Sound is available at **www.ups.edu/diversity.xml**, including links to a cultural resource guide, the university diversity statement, the student diversity center, information on Diversity Theme Year, related programs and services, and more.

SUPT. JAMES M. YOUNG, PASTOR CELEBRATES HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY!

Supt. James M. Young, Pastor

SUPT. JAMES M. YOUNG, PASTOR 1st Administrative Asst. Washington State Jurisdiction CELEBRATES HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY! This celebration takes place: Sunday 11:00 A.M. May 20, 2007 Lighthouse Temple COGIC 806-20th Ave Seattle, WA 98122 Supt. James M. Young has pastored Lighthouse Temple C.O.G.I. C. for over 52 years and has over 75 years in ministry. He's preached out five churches in Louisiana and two in Washington State. He has built three churches from the ground up in New Iberia, Rain Louisiana, and Washington State. His attributes his blessed long life to fasting, prayer and clean living. He recommends that Pastors know their membership, so they can effectively meet the needs of the people; in all thy ways, acknowledge God, and let him, direct their paths. Supt. James M. Young's' future plans is to be his best in the Lord's service, with fasting and praying always at the forefront of his life.

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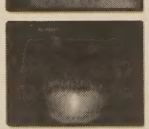

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Time: 7:00 PM

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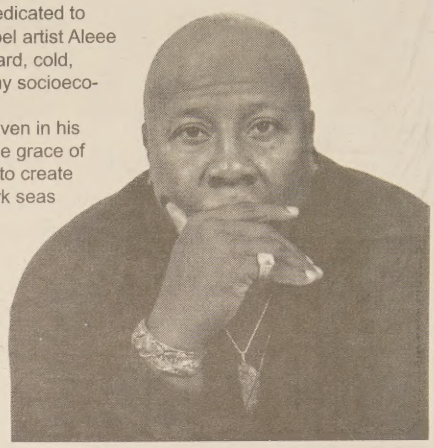
AND MORE!

If you are interested in being a contestant in the solo competition, contact Tracie Davis at 253-241-8644

Praise dancers and more .....

FREE ! FREE ! FREE ! FREE !

Aleee—Gospel Music for the new Millenium



Fiercely, relentlessly dedicated to God's calling, West Coast gospel artist Aleee mounts his battle against the hard, cold, chilling reality of America's many socioeconomic injustices with the sword of heaven in his songwriting. He has, through the grace of Jesus, been anointed, blessed to create music which illuminates the dark seas of ignorance, self-indulgence, hatred, and pride with the brightness and clarity of the Holy Spirit. Not just "praise music" or "soul music", the songs on Aleee's new album, Praise Him! reach deeper, opening the heart and soul to magnificent vistas, a new world full of light, love, peace, happiness and dreams. Aleee's eclectic style embraces southern gospel, blues, hiphop, jazz and multicultural influences.

To contact Aleee Productions, visit www.Aleee.com, call (509) 251-2654 or (253)370-3290. Praise Him! available at ARS records (Tacoma Mall), Dightman's Bible Books, Lakewood Christian Bookstore, or www.cdbaby.com.

PRAISE PAGE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church of Tacoma

Rev. Warren G. Freeman, Jr., Senior Pastor

1223 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Tacoma, WA. 98405
(253) 627-6855 Fax (253) 627-8206

Worship Celebrations
Sunday 8:00 A.M. Early Worship
9:30 A.M. Sunday Church School
11:00A.M. Worship Service
Childcare Available during 11:00 Worship
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Youth Bible Study "Glory" 2nd and 4th Sunday's 2:30 P.M

Visit us on the Web @ www.allename.org

Bethlehem Baptist Church
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4818 Portland Avenue Tacoma, WA 98404
(253) 472- 1147 www.bethlehemtacoma.org

Worship Opportunities:
Sunday: 8:15 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.
Church School: 9:30 A.M.
Mid-Week Services:
Wednesday Bible Study:
12:00 Noon & 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Pastor: Dr. Freeman S. & Sis. Anna Rhoades

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Thursday Evenings at 7:00pm
The NBCF Annex 200 Whitworth Ave. S. in Renton (Across from Renton High School)

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SUNDAY:
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
11 a.m. – Morning Worship
7 p.m. – Evangelist Service
WEEKDAY SERVICES:
7 p.m. – Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m. – Worship Service Every 1st & 3rd Friday
PRAYER: Every First & Third Week

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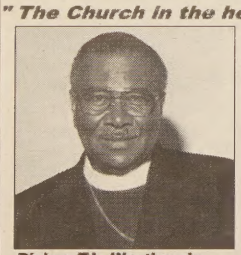

Bishop T.L. Westbrook

Early Morning Worship	@ 8:00am
Sunday School	@ 9:30am
Morning Worship	@11:00am
Evening Worship	@7:00pm

New Members	(Tuesday)	@ 7:00pm
Family Activities Night	(Wednesday)	@ 7:00pm
Pastoral Teaching / Preaching	(Friday)	@ 7:00am

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(253)272-4949 Fax: (253)272-0750 Email : sbc1953@aol.com

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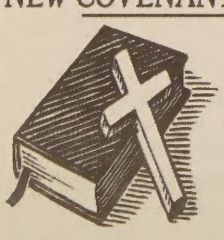
Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.
Children age 3-11 & Youth Church age 12-18
High Noon Service 12:00 p.m. (Wed. Only)
Bible Study (All Ages) & Worship Service (6:00 p.m.)
AWANA CLUB (Every Friday) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (3 - 11)
Youth Late Night (2nd & 4th Friday)

Gregory Christopher, D.Min., Pastor

NEW COVENANT PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE



Sunday	Prayer	8:00am
Sunday	School	9:15am
Sunday	Morning Worship	11:00am

Feeding Program Outreach 6:00 - 6:30pm Monday - Friday

Wed:	7:00pm	-	Midweek Service
Mon:	6:00pm	-	Weekly Prayer Night
Fri:	7:30pm	-	Youth Service Night

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Tuesday Evening Bible Reading	@7:00pm
Thursday Evening Bible Reading	@7:00pm

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"The Divine Restoration Convention" June 13- 17, 2007

Divine Restoration Conference
LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE
Genesis 1:26
June 13th - 17th, 2007
Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
Genesis 1:26 NIV

St. John Church Transformation Ministries International.Lives Restoring Communities.
Men and boys conference 2007 "The Divine Restoration Convention" June 13- 17, 2007
Wednesday 13 June Lets Get It Started - The Kick -Off
6:00p.m. - Men's Health - How to be a Super Man at any Age
7:15p.m. - Mental Health - Check Yourself ("A State of Mind")

Thursday 14 June Powerhouse Thursday
5:00p.m. – Networking (Coming Together)
6:00p.m. – Marketplace – You were born to be C.E.O.
Legal – Do you Know Your Rights & How To Get Them Back
7:15p.m. – Who's the MAN? Help I'm Stuck!-Breaking Free

Friday 15 June Friday Night Live
5:00p.m. - Networking (Coming Together)
6:00p.m. – How to Love Gomer (Restoring a Difficult Relationship)
Why on earth am I here- Discovering my purpose (Youth Group)
7:00p.m. – Praise and Worship
(City Church / St. John Church Transformation Ministries International / Christian Faith Center)
Keynote Speaker: Pastor Judah Smith, Pastor, The City Church

Saturday 16 June Time Talent Treasure
8:30a.m. - Fellowship Breakfast (Coffie, etc.)
9:30a.m. - Breakfast
11:00a.m. - Where is your Treasure Stored: Debt Management and Budgeting
11:30a.m. - Youth Depart for Fieldtrip (Force 10 Ministry)

Sunday 17 June
12:00p.m. - Close-Out Service- St. John Baptist Church Sanctuary
Presentation of Colors- Tacoma Men's Drill Team
In Honor of Military Veterans and Elders of the Church

Please Register On-Line @ www.stjohntacoma.org

St. John Church Transformation Ministries International Restoring Communities

Pastor LeeArthur Madison, Senior Pastor
Deacon Cecil Stewman, Director of Men's Ministries
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A Church Pressing On To Reach the Goal of "The Higher Calling of God"

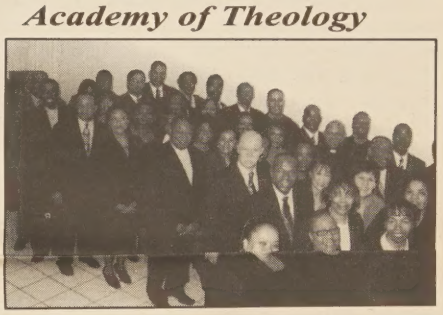
Rev. Gregory L. Tucker Sr

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Family would like to invite you to our Annual Spring Revival taking place Monday, May 21st thru Friday, May 25th, starting each evening at 7:00. Come one, come all and be blessed by the preaching and teaching of Rev. Gregory L. Tucker Sr., the Pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church of Compton California. Pastor Tucker is known as the "most gifted preacher" in the city.
If you're looking for some spirit filled worship, praise, and preaching, plan to attend our revival
Our Theme; A Church Pressing On
To Reach the Goal of "The Higher Calling of God" Philippians 3:12-14

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church is located at
1311 South "I" Street, Tacoma, WA. 98405
For More Information, Please Call (253)627-3569
Hope To See You There May God Bless You!
Rev. Tarrance D. Tucker Jr., Pastor

Bishop A. L. Hardy Academy of Theology

Dr. A. L. Hardy, President



The President, Staff and Faculty, is pleased to announce The Twenty-third Commencement Exercise on Tuesday May 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. prompt. Place: The Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church – 126 15th. Avenue, Seattle, Wa. 98122. We are inviting all our friends and well-wishers to attend. You are Welcome. Some started, but a few dropped out. We are thankful for those that stayed with the program. Now they will march with pride and receive their degrees, for the long hours and hard work. Listed will be the names of each graduating student.
Associate of Theology {At.h} (9) Rev. Danny R. Buswell, Minister Roland Lee Carroll, Jr., Rev. Alice F. James, Pastor John Wesley James, Jr. Minister Jennifer Johnson, Martin L. Lawson, Marcus J. Pimpleton, Latamla Townsend, Minister Sandra Williams Bachelor of Theology, {Th.B.}
Bachelor of Rel. Ed. {B.R.E.} (8) Kennita D. Beckham, Linda M. Broussard, Eddrick J. Grant, Kim M. Grant, Martin L. Lawson, Willie J. McClain, Sr., Michelle Taylor-Nairn, Debra L. Williams.Master of Theology {Th.M} Master of Rel. Ed. {M.R.E.} (10) Rev. Tony R. Brooks, Sr. ,Minister Melba J. Barrier, Aleta D. Fluker, {Maxine Lawrence, from Portland, Oregon} Duane Alexander Lewis, Clifford A. McCloud, Diane M. McClain, Joyce M. Moton, Frank Edward Taylor., Juanita Johnson. Master in Biblical Family Counseling {MBFC} (4) Eddrick J. Grant, Kim M. Grant, Michelle Taylor-Nairn, Imogene Sims. Doctor of Ministry {D.Min.} (11) Doctor of Rel. Ed. {D.R.E.} Rev. Van L. Anderson, Dr. Roxana Dwyer, Rev. Steven E. Elliott, Sr., Pastor James Shaw, Jr., Dr. Goldie Royal, Dolores Walker, {Elder Carl Whittaker from Cincinnati, Ohio} Veronica Nzongo-Tosbiasi, Dr. Ruby Wilkerson, Pastor Ann Travis-Barker, Marvin D. Mitchell. Doctor of Theology {Th.d.} Raymond Hampton, 111 Ollie M. Slack Alice F. McCloud

The Academy is accepting applications throughout the summer with a discount registration fee. Orientation and registration for fall will be Tuesday August 28, 2007 –6:00 p.m. until 8:00 P.M.
For information contact Dr. A. L. Hardy, 206-725-4271. Many of the returning students will be going to the next level of study.
"I would like to thank the Facts for the very fine service they are giving to our community."

Submitted Dr. A. L. Hardy, President Attorney Phillip Aaron, Academic Dean Faculty Attorney P. Aaron, Dr. G. Aaron, Dr. J. Cante' Dr. A. L. Hardy, Dr. A. Luck, Jr. Dr. M. Hughes, Dr. G. Nelson, Dr. J. Croone, Dr. L. Smith, Dr. V. Nzongo-Tobiasi, Dr. Walter White Dr. M. Ley.

How To Tell If You're At Risk For P.A.D.

Learning more about the risk factors for peripheral arterial disease (P.A.D.) can help you recognize the condition and get treatment if you need it-and that's especially important for African Americans. P.A.D. is more common among African Americans than among any other racial or ethnic group. One reason may be that the conditions that raise the risk for P.A.D.-diabetes and high blood pressure-are more common among African Americans. Between 8 and 12 million Americans over the age of 50 (or one in 20 adults) have P.A.D., according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)-part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The disease occurs when arteries-particularly in the lower legs-become clogged with fatty deposits that limit blood flow. P.A.D. increases the risk of heart attack and stroke and affects mobility, but timely detection and treatment can reduce these risks and improve your quality of life. Your risk for P.A.D. is increased not only if you are African American but also if you smoke or used to smoke; have diabetes, high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol; or have a history of vascular disease, heart attack or stroke. In an effort to raise awareness about P.A.D., NHLBI and the P.A.D. Coalition launched the Stay in Circulation: Take Steps to Learn About P.A.D. campaign as a way for people to learn more about the risk factors, symptoms and treatment options for P.A.D. "P.A.D. is not an inevitable consequence of aging," says Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D., NHLBI director. "Early detection and treatment of P.A.D. are important for staying in circulation and preserving or restoring mobility." Most people do not experience pain or other noticeable symptoms. When they are present, typical symptoms can include:

• Fatigue, heaviness and cramping in the leg muscles during activities such as walking or climbing stairs that goes away with rest;

• Foot or toe pain at rest that disturbs sleep; and

• Sores or wounds on toes or feet that are slow to heal.

A simple, painless test called an ankle-brachial index (ABI) can help diagnose P.A.D.

If you're over the age of 50 or have any of the risk factors for P.A.D., talk to your doctor about your risk.

For more information about P.A.D., visit www.aboutpad.org or call the NHLBI Health Information Center at (301) 592-8573 or TTY 240-629-3255. African-Americans are twice as likely to develop peripheral arterial disease (P.A.D) as any other racial or ethnic group.

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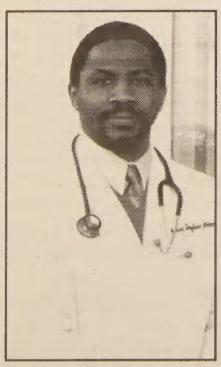
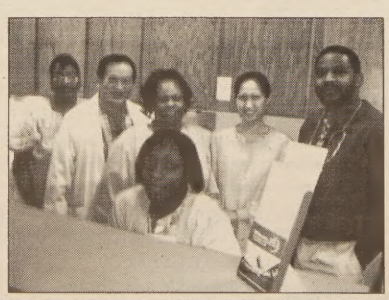


Antoine Johnson MD. - Johnson Family Practice



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Reach House Association, Inc. "Making it Happen"

Forget Ebay for the day! The world of auctions will come alive on Saturday, June 2nd 2007 at 5:30 pm, as the Reach House Association presents its first-ever live and silent "Making it Happen" dinner auction to be held at King Oscar's Motel and Conference Center in Tacoma. Reach House is a non - profit organization dedicated to serving the youth in the Tacoma area. " The facility will offer services to support the entire family but with so much going on with our children we decided to focus on the youth first." "Our goal is to provide programs that will empower our youth to become positive productive members of society" said Dr. Larry Carter, Director of Reach House. "We are extremely pleased and fortunate to have received an array of exceptional donations to be included in our auction," said Faith Boyd, Chair of the Reach House Association auction committee. "We've got something for everyone, including: chocolate lovers basket, baby Basket, a 7 night condo package in Mexico and other exciting items". More than just a fundraising auction, " Making it Happen" is an evening for Reach House to celebrate the accomplishments it has made and the new work it is beginning. To help us celebrate, many of the previous participants of Reach House Programs will be in attendance to share their stories while meeting and greeting the crowd. Ticket-holders will enjoy sumptuous meal prepared by the chefs at Oscars Hotel. Tickets are $100.00 per person and can be purchased with cash or check by contacting Faith Boyd at 253-752-4353 or Darcel Carter at 253-272-6880 or via email reachhouse@juno.com. Reach House will continue to receive auction items donations daily. Please contact Faith Boyd or Darcel Carter if you would like to donate.

Juneteenth a Time for Celebration

Holiday Commemorates End of Slavery, Beginning of Full Self-Determination Please join us for a "Unity in Community" function at Peoples Park (9th & Martin Luther King, Jr. St, Tacoma WA 98405), **Saturday, June 16th, 2007, 9:00AM – 7:00PM** Juneteenth", the oldest known celebration marking the end of slavery in America, is observed on June 19th. This day on June 19th, 1865 commemorates the anniversary of the arrival of the Union soldiers in Galveston, Texas with news of the end of the Civil War the previous April and the emancipation of slaves almost two-and-a-half years earlier. In 1980, Juneteenth was made an official state holiday in Texas and is featured in the programming of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. For newly-freed slaves, the annual celebration was a time of reassurance and rejoicing. Juneteenth activities range from prayer services to picnics, but education and self-improvement have been a constant theme throughout the years. Come out to celebrate the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, which declared that all those enslaved were now free! Our program begins on June 2nd with an ethnic pageant and fashion show at the Temple Theater in Tacoma, WA at 6:00 pm. Then, on June 16th, we will start with a parade at 10:00am from 19th and Martin Luther King, Jr. St. to Peoples Park on 9th and Martin Luther King, Jr. St. At the park there will be a reenactment of the reading of the General Order #3 read by General Gordon Granger "19th of June", 1865 Galveston, Texas; distinguished keynote speakers, music from many different genres; community updates; poetry in motion, and other exciting performances. **Please, Join us in celebrating Freedom!**

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

JUNE 16, 2007

4:00 - 6:00

TACOMA CITY ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMENS CLUB'S INC

2316 S. YAKIMA AVE

VENDORS NEEDED

CONTESTANTS NEEDED FOR BEST BBQ IN PIERCE COUNTY

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Poor Credit Hindering Many People, Many Ways

GRS Credit Can Help

A GRS Credit Specialist was informed by a new client that she was unable to open a checking account at a local credit union because her scores were below 550. The GRS Specialist confirmed that the client's denial to open a checking account was not attributed to information in Checks Systems but purely based on low credit scores. "Like it or not, credit scores are becoming as vital to our existence as the air we breathe," says K Joseph, co-owner of GRS Credit. "People with poor credit scores are paying inflated interest rates and having to shell-out high deposits for securing utility services." For individuals with credit scores below 640, owning a home with no-money-down is becoming a cloudy dream as lenders tighten the requirements for mortgage loan approvals. It is common knowledge that poor credit scores equate to higher interest rates. What is an unknown obstacle to people with less than perfect credit is the increasing inability to rent an apartment, obtain homeowner, renters or auto insurance or open a checking account or a utility account (water, cable, phone, electric, gas). Tired of seeing people discouraged and hopeless due to poor credit, K Joseph and his partners made a decision to take their three-year, part-time action of helping people repair credit to the next level by launching a COMPLETE credit repair company for credit-challenged individuals. GRS Credit is in the business of addressing how the debt, which can contribute to bad credit, is reported. "People won't address their credit issues until they are faced with doing so at a moment when often times it is too late. Embarrassed, people sweep their bad credit in the closet with hopes it will go away by itself. But it won't." As more industries rely on credit scores, it is critical for people to stop procrastinating and take action themselves, or hire professionals like GRS Credit to help them move up from the 400 - 500 credit score ranges. "Challenging credit issues are not difficult. Getting results are," says, Monique Scott, Marketing Manager. "GRS Credit provides a complete credit repair program which challenges not only the credit agencies, but courthouses, creditors, as wells as collection agencies all in accordance with the procedures and timeframes laid out in the laws."

The six month fees are affordable for the work that GRS Credit does for its clients for a full year. If people are hesitant to deal with their credit problem because they don't know what to do, K Joseph advises, "It's like anything else in life. Acknowledge the fact you currently have an issue; find a solution to help you address the problem; make a proactive choice and do something about it; invest the time or make a temporary financial sacrifice to get it done—sooner not later." Individuals with challenged credit are invited by GRS Credit to visit their website, www.grscredit.com and complete a FREE credit evaluation to determine if GRS Credit can help.

GRS Credit is a subsidiary of Genesis Resource Solutions, LLC based in North Carolina.

For more information visit: www.grscredit.com Toll Free: 800-792-4417

Auto Loan Rates Higher For Blacks

Recent Legal Settlements Could Narrow the Gap

Blacks have been charged higher auto loan rates than other auto buyers, federal research says. But the gap in loan rates could narrow, and possibly disappear, as the result of recently concluded lawsuits.Blacks paid a typical auto loan rate of 7 percent for new cars, compared with a rate of 5 percent for whites in 2004, according to a consumer organization's analysis of the Federal Reserve Survey of Consumer Finances. That was the most recent survey available. And blacks were more likely than auto buyers in general to have auto loan rates higher than 15 percent. For used car loans, 27 percent of blacks who buy cars were charged interest rates of 15 percent or more. Blacks were three times as likely as whites _ 27 percent to 9 percent _ to have auto loan rates at least that high, according to the report released Monday. Hispanics were paying a typical rate of 5.5 percent for new car loans, while 19 percent of Hispanics had loans for used cars over 15 percent, the analysis found.Lenders' suggested quote rates are based largely on the buyer's credit history, but auto dealers often raise the rate higher than that risk-related rate without discussing the rate with the customer, consumer advocates said. And they question the causes of those rate differences. "It's hard to believe that any differences in creditworthiness explain all of these rate gaps," said Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America. "They size you up, the car salesmen and finance and interest guys. They must think African-Americans are more vulnerable to a markup." But a series of legal actions against auto finance firms seeking fair treatment for minorities could help solve that problem. "We had 11 lawsuits, the last of the cases settled last month," said Stuart Rossman of the National Consumer Law Center. "We reached a settlement with each of the finance firms. Our cases involved discrimination. We believe the terms of the settlements will eliminate discrimination." The first of the lawsuits was filed in 1998 in Nashville, Tenn., against General Motors Acceptance Corporation and was settled in 2004. The last settlement became final in April. The effects of those legal actions may not be known for some time, however.

The National Auto Dealers Association questioned what accounts for the rate differences, but encouraged auto buyers to do their homework before going to buy a car. "The question that still is unanswered is why," said David Hyatt, a spokesman for the dealer's association. "People should do their homework and shop around. It speeds up the transaction, makes for a smoother transaction and is more likely to result in a satisfied buyer." Hyatt said an organization supported by the auto dealers, Americans Well Informed on Automobile Retailing Economics (AWARE), offers tips to potential car buyers. Chris Stinebert, president and chief executive of the American Financial Services Association, said his group is interested in educating consumers. "AFSA and its members believe there is no place for discrimination in the vehicle financing system," he said. The lawsuit settlements against auto finance companies call for caps on dealer markups, opportunities for blacks and Hispanics to get loans with no markups within the next few years, more information about interest rate terms and consumer education for minorities. "The lower markup caps have leveled the playing field," Rossman said.Consumer advocates say prospective auto buyers should call their bank or credit union for a rate quote to expect on an auto loan.

That could protect them from unfair markups.

Other ways to hold down costs.

**** Make all loan payments on time. * Buy a used car, or a less expensive new car.***

**** Take out a loan over a shorter time.***

The survey of 4,519, including 605 blacks, was analyzed by Catherine Montalto, a consumer specialist at Ohio State University for the Consumer Federation of America. The survey was conducted between May and December of 2004.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Purchasing Manager, Tacoma School District No. 10, 3321 South Union Avenue, Tacoma, Washington, 98409, for the Existing Campus Painting at Wilson High School , B-70013-E. Base bids will be received on May 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

A **mandatory** Pre-Bid walk-through will be held to answer any questions and review the scope of work and the documents on May 18, 2007: 8:00 a.m. at Wilson High School at 1202 North Orchard Street, Tacoma, Washington 98406.

Drawings and specifications may be examined at the following plan centers: Associated Subcontractors - Tacoma, Builders Exchange - Everett; McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge - Seattle, Tacoma; Northwest Plancenter - Bellingham; Olympia Plan Center - Olympia; Olympic Peninsula Plan Center, Bremerton; Small Business Incubator, Tacoma; Valley Plan Center, Kent -. Bid documents may also be viewed and ordered on the Reprographics Northwest, LLC web site at www.repronw.com. Click on the PlanWell link and enter the Public Room.

Drawings and specifications may be obtained by Contractor Bidders at the offices of Reprographics Northwest, Inc., 632 Broadway, Tacoma, Washington, 98402, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, upon depositing the sum of $50.00 payable to Tacoma School District No. 10 for each set of documents. Contact the Reprographics Northwest, Inc Bid Services Department at 800–337-8103 if you require assistance placing an order online. The full amount of the bid deposit will be refunded to actual contract bidders on return of the drawings and specifications in good condition, to Reprographics Northwest, 632 Broadway, Tacoma, WA, 98405, within ten (10) days of bid opening. Bid sets will be mailed upon request and after receipt of a non-refundable shipping and handling fee paid to Reprographics Northwest, Inc.

The Tacoma School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or informalities. The right is reserved by the Tacoma School District to postpone contract award for the period of thirty (30) days after the bid opening. The Tacoma School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. No bidder may withdraw the bid after the hour set for the opening thereof, or before award of contract, unless said award is delayed for a period exceeding thirty (30) days.

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Building Urban Waters facilities focus of study session

City Council members are scheduled May 15 to hear a presentation from Public Works staff in regard to completing the design and construction of the facilities for Urban Waters on property which was recently purchased on the east side of the Thea Foss Waterway. The presentation will review the alternative financing, construction methods and a recommendation for moving forward with the most cost-effective and timely process. The Council will not take public comment during the noon study session in the Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16. CityPost (Channel 21 on Click!, Channel 77 on Comcast) will air the audio portion of the session live. Replays of the study session audio may be heard Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on CityPost (Channel 85 on Click!, Channel 77 on Comcast). On-demand audio archives are available on the Web within 24 hours of the meeting at www.tvtacoma.com.

15th Street ramp closure schedule has shifted to May 14

The 15th Street ramp closure schedule start date has been shifted to Monday, May 14. The 15th Street ramp – between 'A' Street and Dock Street – will be closed to traffic from Monday, May 14, until the following Monday, May 21. The ramp is being closed so a new sanitary main line can be installed from the park area at 15th Street to the front of the 15th Street ramp where it touches down onto Dock Street . Traffic control signage will be in place around the affected area along 'A' Street, 9th Street and Schuster Parkway to alert motorists of the ramp closure. The ramp closure is weather dependent and subject to change. For more information call the construction hotline (253) 591-5256 or visit www.cityoftacoma.org/dockstreet.

Foss Waterway parking meeting scheduled for May 14

City Manager Eric Anderson will continue the public discussion about downtown parking and transit on May 14 at 5:30 p.m. along the Foss Waterway at the Museum of Glass (1801 Dock Street). The goal of this follow-up discussion is to capture any additional questions or concerns that were not included in the question-and-answer documents from the first round of meetings. The question-and-answer documents from the first round of meetings are available on the city Web site at www.cityoftacoma.org/downtownparking. Business owners, residents and anyone else interested in downtown parking issues are encouraged to attend this open forum.

Public Works director makes 2007 top 10 list

William L. Pugh, Public Works director for the City of Tacoma , was recently named a 2007 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Pugh will receive the award during the City Council meeting at 5 p.m. on May 15, located at 747 Market Street in the Council Chambers, First Floor. APWA selected 10 outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their professionalism, expertise and career-long dedication and service. Marking the 48th year of the award, the honor is among the most coveted and prestigious presented by the Association.

Planned Residential Development public hearing May 16

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on May 16 at 5 p.m., in the City Council Chambers located on First Floor, 747 Market Street , on the draft code amendments in response to the City's moratorium on Planned Residential Development (PRD) districts. The draft code amendments would modify the open space requirement for PRD developments and modify the process and requirements for modifications to approved PRD developments. The hearing is intended to assist the commission in evaluating the draft amendments and formulating its findings and recommendations for submittal to the Council. Additional information is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/planning.

Volunteers Get New Tool To Keep Washington Covered

-In every community in the state, including this one, Washington volunteers are making a difference every day. They hand out food at food banks, care for the homebound and elderly, keep the local animal shelter clean and monitor the local park. Thanks to the Washington Alliance for Volunteer Engagement, more potential volunteers can find opportunities that fit their time commitments and talents with a single, easy-to-navigate, statewide Web site at www.volunteerwashington.org. Registering to help in any community is easy. Volunteers can commit their time to a cause with confidence as opportunities listed on the site are verified by a nearby Volunteer Center, part of the statewide network of Volunteer Centers of Washington.

VolunteerWashington.org is powered by 1-800-Volunteer.org, a service of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging more people and more resources effectively in volunteer service to solve serious social problems. To learn more, visit the Web site at www.volunteerwashing ton.org.

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Unique American Idol Theme Song Created By Talented African American Fans

Unsigned singer debuts new theme song for America's number #1 TV Show

Producer Irvin Lee and singer Allen Watty are back with another song that addresses current events. This time though, it's not about Hurricane Katrina (www.HurricaneSong.com), its about Fox's *American Idol* - the most watched TV show of all time. The song available for free download at www.TheAmericanIdolsong.com is an energetic R&B tune that captures the popular and addictive talent show in a song of it's own.

"True *American Idol* fans will love this song," says Lee. "It's a theme song. It's the perfect song to open or close the show with." The lyrics in the song were written from the perspective of an actual contestant on the show. "I just want to sing and dance, Simon give me one more chance," one part goes.

Lee and Watty won rave reviews from MSNBC, CNN, and ABC News last year for the Hurricane Song, which also debuted online. That song went on to be listed on About.com as one of the top 10 socially conscious songs of all time. Allen Watty, who is well-known but not signed to any record label, is hoping to get noticed by one through the publicity of their independently released tracks. Maybe this will be a turn in American Idol history, whereas a fan gets a chance to be in the spotlight.

For more information about The American Idol Song, visit:
www.TheAmericanIdolsong.com or call (614) 595-6063

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Local support is generously provided by Helen and Peter Bing and The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

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This exhibition was organized by Throckmorton Fine Art, Inc., New York, New York. Image by Nickolas Muray, Frida Kahlo on Bench, 1938. Color carbon print, 16/30, 11 ½ × 14 ½ inches. Courtesy of Throckmorton Fine Art, Inc., New York, New York. © Nickolas Muray Photo Archives.